

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
(TRANSPORT-2 BRANCH)

ORDER

Whereas as per direction given by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Government of Punjab is, of the opinion to ensure safe transportation of school children as well as the road safety for school buses and to provide sufficient transportation to the school going children, it is necessary to formulate a transportation scheme for school going children. Therefore, the scheme namely 'Safe School Vahan Scheme' is hereby formulated as under:

Safe School Vahan Scheme

- (A) Safe School Vahan ("Educational Institution Bus")
- (B) Safe School Vahan (Four Seater Euro IV Motor Cab) for the Urban & Rural Schools.
- (C) Safe School Vahan (for rural Government schools)

(A) Safe School Vahan ("Education institution bus")

As per the Motor Vehicle Act 1988 the "Education institution bus" means an omnibus, which is owned by a college, schools or other educational institutions and used solely for the purpose of transporting students or staff of the educational institutions in connection with any of its activities.

Here "Omnibus" means any motor vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than six persons excluding the driver. Presently all such vehicles are being issued a Private Service Vehicle Permit.

It is relevant to mention here that the majority of accidents involving the school buses happens due to the unsafe bus body fabrication and the failure of the educational institutions to adopt comprehensive periodical preventive maintenance procedure and due to the lack of driving skills among the bus drivers. An Automotive Industry Standard Committee (AIS) constituted by Govt. Of India, as giving importance to the safety of school children, drafted specific requirements for school buses, which would become necessary adjunct to the "code of practice for bus body design and approval -

AIS – 052". The AIS-063-requirement for school buses has laid down special requirements for school buses over and above the requirements laid down for buses in "code of practice for bus body design and approval – AIS – 052". Though, AIS – 052 is still not being implemented due to the objections from stake holders. However, due to the urgency for safe school transportation shown in the Hon'bl High Court interim order dated 19-07-2013 , there is a need to adopt and implement AIS-063-requirement for school buses. Therefore, the requirements laid down in AIS-063-requirement for school buses are proposed to be made mandatory for the approval of a School Bus Body design , under rule 39 of Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 , on a bus chassis for operation in the State of Punjab.

AIS-063-requirement for school buses

1.0 SCOPE :

This standard will apply to M2 and M3 category of vehicles with a seating capacity of 13 passengers and above excluding driver meant for school bus application. These additional requirements are applicable for buses used for transporting children to and from school, which is henceforth, referred to as "School Bus". These additional requirements are being laid down for the following reasons:-

- (i) To maximize safety and minimize severity of injuries.
- (ii) To take care of specific needs related to school going children.

2.0 DEFINITIONS :

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions shall apply.

- 2.1 'Stop signal arm' is a device that can be extended outward from the side of school bus, to provide a signal to other motorists not to pass the bus because it has stopped to load or discharge passengers.
- 2.2 'Speed governor' is a device used to limit the speed of a school bus.

2.3 'Retracting step' is a step used for entry into bus, but when not in use can be retracted inward and upward to enable normal operation of the bus.

2.4 'School bus insignia' is the symbol to be imprinted on the bus. This is used internationally as a symbol for child safety (Refer Figure 1)

3.0 REQUIREMENTS :

3.1 Identification :

3.1.1 All school buses must have an external colour of 'Golden Yellow'. This colour shall be as per IS 5 - 1994 (as amended from time to time) For school identification, a band of 150mm wide of 'Golden Brown' colour may be provided on all sides of the bus below the window level.

3.1.2 The 'school bus insignia' shall have a dimension of 350 x 350 mm and a back drop of golden yellow colour with the symbol in black colour. The template drawn to 1:2 scale is shown in Figure 1. This shall be provided on the outer surface of the bus in a visible location preferably above the windscreen safety glass in the front and above the safety glass at the rear.

3.2 Emergency Exits :

3.2.1 Position and Number of Emergency Exits : All school buses shall have an emergency door on rear half of the bus on the right hand side. In addition, there shall be an emergency exit on the rear side of the bus. The lower edge of the emergency door shall be at the level of the bus floor and top edge shall be at the level of window upper edge.

3.2.2 Passenger Safety : Whenever the bus passenger door or the emergency door or rear emergency exit opens, the bus should be incapable of motion. Besides this the driver of the bus must get the indication of the same through a flashing light or buzzer or suitable means. The emergency doors shall be kept closed in the normal condition and children should also be trained to operate these doors.

3.3 Vehicle Entry :

The lowest footstep height shall not be more than 220 mm from the ground and the vehicle shall be incapable of motion without folding or retracting the steps.

3.4 Seat Design :

3.4.1 Interior Protection :

3.4.1.1 All parts in 'Critical Safety Zone' shall have a radius of not less than 25mm. Alternatively its shore hardness shall not be more than 20 Shore A hardness.

Note: Critical safety zone is the vertical plane of height 400mm and width 300mm. The lower edge of rectangle is at height of 200mm from seat top and centralized about each passenger body axis.(Refer Figure 2)

3.4.1.2 All parts in gangway up to height of 1200 mm from bus floor shall have a radius not less than 25mm. Alternatively its shore hardness shall not be more than 20 Shore A hardness.

3.4.2 Storage Racks :

3.4.2.1 Storage racks to be provided beneath all seats, except the driver seat, co-driver seat and the last row of seats.

3.4.2.2 Storage rack to be of dimensions not less than 350 mm depth, 500 mm width and clearance height of 300 mm to store the belongings of school children such as school bags, lunch box and water bottles.

3.4.3. Seat Lay out : All seats should be forward facing except in the case of seats facing the passenger step well, which should not face the door. Alternatively a partition which prevents the child from falling into the step well shall be provided.

3.5 Stopping Signals :

Whenever the passenger door opens, the following 2 signals shall operate.

3.5.1 The stop signal arm should project out of the co-driver side with a minimum projection of 150 mm with the ' STOP ' sign of minimum letter height of 40 mm to be installed.

3.5.2 The hazard warning shall operate automatically.

3.6 Speed Governor :

A tamper proof speed governor complying with the requirements of Rule 118 of CMV(A)R 1989, which prevents driver from speeding beyond the speed limits set by the local and State Transport Authorities, shall be provided.

Other Safety Measures

As additional steps for the safe transportation of the school children, the following measures are being proposed:-

State Level Inter Department Committee -

Hon'ble High Court in the interim order dated 28.09.2012 has observed as under:-

- It appears that there is no special cell/department, whether within the Transport Department or the Police Establishment, to deal with or to take care of matters relating to transportation of school children. It has also been brought to the notice of this court that apart from issuing challans to schools buses, no inspection is ever carried out, there is no periodical monitoring and control over school buses and overs and in essence, there is a complete lack of understanding, sensitivity or any concern on the part of the officers in matters relating to transportation of school children.

Further in reference to Union Territory of Chandigarh , Hon'ble High Court in the interim order dated 01.02.2013 has observed as under:-

- The endeavour by the Union Territory, Chandigarh to provide subsidised transport for children studying in government schools is laudable.

A perusal of reports, appearing in media, appear to suggest that there is a degree of confusion in the Chandigarh Administration with respect to enforcement of norms relating to school buses. Apparently, there are four departments, all working at cross purposes namely; office of the DPI, the State Transport Authority, the Police Department and the schools themselves. The Secretary, Education shall convene a meeting of these authorities and shall ensure that a single authority is conferred with powers to enforce norms prepared by the Chandigarh Administration, relating to safety parameters, and all other matters pertaining to transportation of school children.

In view of these interim orders, a State Level Inter Departmental Committee is hereby constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Education comprising members from the Department of Police, Department of Transport and Department of Local Government. This Committee shall be a single authority conferred with the powers to formulate and enforce norms prepared for the safety of the school buses.

District Level Inter Departmental Committee -

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Sub-Divisional Magistrate comprising District Transport Officer, District Education Officer, Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Executive Officer (Municipal Corporation or Municipal Committee), Assistant Mechanical Engineer (Punjab Roadways) is hereby constituted.

This Committee shall discuss and decide on all the issues pertaining to safety of children and their transportation for each District. This Committee shall have following functions:-

- The Committee shall meet once in each month and shall evolve an action plan to conduct inspection of school buses either in the premises of the school concerned or in such other places to ensure compliance to the provisions for school buses safety.

- The Committee shall have the powers to enforce the conditions of the permit.
- The program of inspection shall be planned in such a manner that each school bus is inspected by the Committee once in a year.

School Authority -

The Principal / Head Master / Head Mistress of the school shall be a school authority responsible for transportation of the school children. It shall have the following functions.

- To ensure that school buses should be painted yellow.
- To ensure "School Bus" must be written on the back and front of the bus. If it is a hired bus, "On School Duty" should be clearly indicated.
- To ensure that bus should have first aid box and fire extinguisher.
- To ensure that windows of the school bus are fitted with horizontal grills.
- To ensure that school name and school telephone numbers are written on the school bus.
- To ensure that doors of the school bus are fitted with reliable lock.
- To ensure that driver should have at least five years of experience of driving heavy vehicle.
- To ensure that a driver who has been challaned more than twice in a year for the offences like red light jumping, violation of lane discipline or allow unauthorized person to drive the vehicle are not employed.
- To ensure that driver and conductor of the school bus shall wear uniform prescribed by the competent authority along with their name plates and license number.
- To ensure that no school vehicle shall carry the children in excess than its registered seating capacity.
- To ensure that one day refresher course of First - Aid and fire extinguishing techniques is conducted twice a year.

- To ensure that adequate number of traffic wardens are employed.
- To ensure medical checkup of the drivers.
- To ensure that attendant from the school in each bus is provided. If the bus is used to transport girls then a lady attendant shall be provided in such a bus.
- To ensure that the driver must not have been charged for a serious offence.
- To ensure the formation of a stretch of road outside the school prominently marked SCHOOL ZONE by introducing traffic signs, markings, zebra crossing etc.
- Pelican Signal could be installed (where required) outside the school. These would be operated by the school authorities only during opening and closing hours to facilitate safe crossing of the children.
- To ensure the control of vehicular speed in front of the school as maximum speed limit not to exceed 25 Kmph.
- To ensure the traffic opposite school gate be further reduced to 10 kmph with a provision of speed breakers.
- To ensure that the school must have their own designated land for parking areas so that the congestion caused due to traffic in front of school could be minimised.
- To ensure that boarding and alighting from the school buses / vans should be arranged on the school side of the road so that children do not have to cross the road.
- To ensure that the driver and attendants of the school bus should not suffer from any contagious disease.
- To ensure no smoking or drinking of alcohol or chewing tobacco / pan masala etc.

School Level Transport Committee -

A school level transport Committee shall be constituted in the each school. This Committee shall be headed by the Principle / Head Master / Head Mistress of the school and shall consist of a police officer not below the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector of the area

and Bhiwadi , Deputy Registrar Co-Operative Societies with Distt. Administration playing co-ordinating role.

4. Punjab National Bank acted as lead bank to provide loans at the rate of interest 14.25% with an extended payback period of 5 years. No collateral (security pledged for the payment of loans) was taken from the applicant and the Government acted as guarantor under the CGFTI-Credit Guarantee Fund Trust of India scheme. The loans were fast-tracked and were distributed through special team set up for the purpose.
5. District Transport Officers have been responsible for allotting the route permit to the Alwar Vahini applicants.
6. UIT Alwar and Bhiwadi born the cost of uniforms , ID cards , group insurance and soft skills training of the drivers. It also built the support infrastructure in the form of modern bus stops , signages (graphic designs/symbos/embelms used as a means of giving directions or warnings) , high mast lights , traffic signals , CCTV traffic monitoring cameras and advanced police control rooms. Manufacturers like Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra gave very sizeable discounts and have also born the cost of expenditure on stickering of vehicles
7. Co-Operative Society was formed of all the Alwar Vahini owners so that the commen benefits like insurance can be provided to the members. All the members of the society were required to undergo a compulsory medical checkup for physical fitness , eyesight etc.The office bearers of the society were contact persons so that the administrative orders can be conveyed to all the members through the co-operative.
8. A NGO specialized in soft skills training has been engaged in training the drivers in etiquettes and driving discipline.
9. Exchange programme was provided for the three wheeler owners.

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8. A NGO specialized in soft skills training has been engaged in training the drivers in etiquettes and driving discipline.
9. Exchange programme was provided for the three wheeler owners.

10. A Mahila Alwar Vahini with lady drivers was launched. These vehicles were of special light red colour for easy identification.
11. Website www.alwarvahini.com was launched , so that citizens would get complete information on the routes serviced.
12. Alwar Vahini has unique number prominently displayed. This helps in easily identifying the vehicle for any traffic violations.
13. The high resolution CCTV cameras were installed for overwatch , so that highest standards of discipline are maintained.

Some of the salient features of this Safe School Vahan Scheme (Four seater Euro IV Motor Cab) for the Urban & Rural Schools are as under.

1. A Co-operative Society shall be formed of all the vehicle owners so that the common benefits like insurance can be provided to the members. All the members of the society are required to undergo a compulsory medical check up for physical fitness , eyesight etc. The office bearers of the society would be contact persons so that the administrative orders can be conveyed to all the members through the co-operative.
2. The only Four seater Euro IV Motor Cab vehicles of the various vehicle manufacturers shall be allowed to be the part of this Co-Operative Society.
3. Safe School Vahan owners may be issued the permit for a private service vehicle.
4. Fare- As per the Government of Punjab notification No. 31/2/2011-2T2/475 dated 31-08-2012, the rate of Motor Vehicle Tax per seat per annum for a motor cab vehicle has already been fixed as Rs. 750/-. Therefore, a motor cab introduced under the safe school vahan (Four seater Euro IV

Motor Cab)scheme shall also be paying a Motor Vehicle Tax per seat per annum @ Rs. 750/-, equivalent to all motor cab contract carriage vehicles including three wheeled vehicles. These safe school vahan vehicles shall be under a operational agreement with a school to transport the school children from school bus stops to the respective schools and back also. However, after fulfilling the obligations under the safe school vahan scheme, these safe school vahan shall be at liberty to operate as contract carriage vehicles for transportation of general public. It is relevant to mention here that Government vide notification No. 2/10/91-4T2/8553 dated 15.10.2010 has fixed the taxi hiring rates on kilometre basis for ordinary taxi car upto 1000 CC as Rs. 7/- per kilometre. For a maximum 6 seater vehicle, a to and fro journey upto 10 kilometers, would cost as Rs. 140/-. This journey cost for a single seat would be approximately Rs. 24 per day and for the 25 working days in a month, this journey cost would be about Rs. 600 per month. Therefore, the monthly transportation charges for a safe school vahan vehicle to transport a single child from school bus stop upto a journey of maximum 10 kilometers and back also under safe school scheme may be fixed between Rs. 400 per month to Rs. 500 per month per child. Therefore, the rate of fare will be fixed by the Government from time to time as required.

5. Safe school vahan (Four seater Euro IV Motor Cab) scheme would be a completely private funded project.
6. Safe school vahan (Four seater Euro IV Motor Cab) project shall be launched with the collective efforts various organisations like District Transport Officers , a National / State Bank as lead Bank , Urban Improvement Trusts / Municipal Corporations / Municipal Committees, Deputy Registrar Co-Operative Societies with Distt. Administration playing co-ordinating role.

7. A National / State Co-operative Bank like Punjab State Co-operative Bank Limited or any other nationalized bank may be selected to act as a lead bank to provide loans at the lower rate of interest with an extended payback period of 5 years or more and without any collateral (security pledged for the payment of loans) from the applicant. The Government may act as a guarantor under the CGFTI-Credit Guarantee Fund Trust of India scheme. These loans may be fast-tracked and must be distributed through special team of the bank set up for the purpose.
8. District Transport Officers should be responsible for allotting the route permit to the Safe school vahan (Four seated Euro IV Motor Cab) scheme project vehicles.
9. URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUSTS/MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS/ MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES may be given the responsibilities to bear the cost of uniforms , ID cards , group insurance and soft skills training of the drivers. It may also built the support infrastructure in the form of modern bus stops , signage (graphic designs/symbol/emblems used as a means of giving directions or warnings) , high mast lights , traffic signals, CCTV traffic monitoring cameras and advanced police control rooms. Manufacturers must be made a part of this team to give very sizeable discounts and also bear the cost of expenditure on stickering of vehicles.
10. An NGO specialized in soft skills training may be engaged in training the drivers in etiquettes and driving discipline.
11. Exchange programme may be provided for the three wheeler owners to switch over to the fuel efficient and environment friendly Euro IV compliant 4 seated vehicles under the Safe school vahan (Four seater Euro IV Motor Cab) scheme.
12. Safe school vahan (Four seater Euro IV Motor Cab) with lady drivers may be launched under safe school vahan scheme. These vehicles may be provided with some colour

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scheme for easy identification from safe school vahan being driven by male driver.

13.A Website may be launched , so that citizens would get complete information on the routes serviced.

14. Safe school vahan (Four seater Euro IV Motor Cab) scheme may be given a unique number prominently displayed. This helps in easily identifying the vehicle for the any traffic violations.

15. The high resolution CCTV cameras may be installed on the approved routes of the safe school vahan for overwatch , so that highest standard of discipline are maintained.

(C) Safe School Vahan (for rural Government schools)

For safe, secure and reliable transportation of the rural school children, a sub-committee at District level under the chairmanship of General Manager, Punjab Roadways / Depot Manager, PRTC comprising Traffic Manager, Punjab Roadways/PRTC, Asst. District Transport Officer, Assistant District Education Officer is constituted for the route planning and time-table formulation of state owned buses for the transportation of the rural school children. This Committee shall submit its recommendations to the District Level Inter Departmental Committee from time to time as required.

Dated, Chandigarh
the 7.11.2013

(S.S. Channy)
Principal Secretary Transport.

Urdst No. 4/39/2011-2T2/120628/1 Dated: Chandigarh the 7.11.2013

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action :-

- 1) State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh.
- 2) Director State Transport, Punjab, Chandigarh
- 3) Managing Director, PRTC, Patiala.

Additional Secretary